8 Sept Sunday 1918

1918

Dearest,

Mrs. Hammond will come on the 18th for 2 weeks certainly. probably longer if you want her. At first she said she must have 20/- but I said this was absurd, & she seems quite glad to come for 15/-

Kelly says the pay has gone up. They all went to the picnic place to meet you yesterday. Kelly rode to Charleston twice but did not dare go in lest T. should see her.

Apparently Liz had made up her
mind that she would go to you.
if you asked her to. I
think there's no doubt she
would come later as nurse
if you wanted her. I've
said that you don't want to
settle anything yet, & anyhow
you wont want her as cook.
They quite enjoyed their
picnic, so it didn't matter.
Leonard would like to come &
see you one afternoon this week
if it's agreeable to you.
The reason he was so silent with
Duncan was that he went out
into the garden & was sick. &

NYPL

felt sick all the evening, without saying so.
We heard this morning that he
is now made Editor of the new
Review – also that we can take
Asheham on by the year – though
they see no prospect at present of
turning us out.

I'd like to come over again
more than anything – in hope
of Grading – but I must give
this to Barney. who has
been very charming –

L. B.

? (10 Sept 1918)

Athelhampton,

Monday.

Dearest,

I haven't heard from Clive, so I don't know what he wants to do. As a matter of fact it would as it turns out suit us best to have them for the night of the 16th, as the servants will still be here. Wouldn't it be possible for them to bring the children here, & for Nelly to take them on to Charleston? Mrs. Hammond doesn't know the way so that Nelly was anyhow going to take her on Monday, & I'm sure she'd take the children if they could get here fairly early. I've asked Gertler to come for the 21st–23rd week end, & I thought

perhaps you'd ask him over to you on Sunday. We may have a Jewish week end with my family in law. Leonard will come over the first fairly fine afternoon. I'll come anyhow one day – but I think he'd like a little conversation with you alone.

How that your domestic troubles are over, mine are beginning. I spent the whole morning in the usual horrors – but I don't think they amount to much.

If I don't hear from Clive I shall take it for granted they're not coming.

Yours B.

We have settled to stay on here till Oct. 6th. It would give me infinite pleasure to see you.

NYPL

12 Sept 1918

1960

Tuesday.

Dearest,

The Leonard means to try & come in spite of the weather. I've not heard from Clive. We can have them later for the night if they dont mind putting up with our solitary char. I dont quite know what arrangements to make about coming over, as I shall have my affairs next week. I'd like to come tomorrow, but I dont know if I shall be able to in this weather. I suppose it wd. be all right if I turned up. Gertler is coming on Saturday, week. Both the servants have new seven notice! Its the most idiotic story I ever heard, but Leonard will tell you. I dont

think they will go in the end, as Nelly is very anxious to stay – still, I'm not going to press them this time. Barbara seems to have been too silly, & started all kinds of gossip about them down here, which adds to the difficulties. It's a lesson against lending one's house.

NYPL

Do you think you have any small Chinese coat or wrapper which I could wear in the evening while the Webbs are here? My evening clothes are so thin they seem rather foolish. Also, have you any lace fronts that I could wear instead of my little blue jacket instead of my yellow handkerchief. I seem to have got fearfully shabby & G. Young is coming too. Anything you could spare I should be glad of –

& I would send them back on Monday by Nelly. Do you want Mrs. Hammond to bring all her ration cards[2]. I suppose so.

I've lost the woollen cap you made me. This is a hint.

G.B.

Perhaps the best plan wd. be for me to come tomorrow for the night, if that suits you.

Don't tell Trixie anything about N. & L. as the g wants best to get them to leave. & seems to have been doing her made some impression on Lottie, though none on N.

16 Sept 1918

41

Monday.

Dearest

There seems a fate against my coming. I've had to lend Nelly my bicycle to day, & also I've got to interview Mrs Geall, so I can't get over. I daresay it's just as well, & your brats will be coming, I should be jealous.

I will try & come tomorrow, early, about 11. or 11.30. & come back here for tea. Clive wrote, & I suggested they should come here for Tuesday night. So I should have to get back; but it seems the only chance of seeing you. God! what a week end we had!

41v

Incessant talk for 46 hours, & the
boy Wells up at 5.30 chattering
in their rooms. & George Young
just like Hilton, holding forth in
in the most ferocious & romantic
way, very slow & stiff &
incredibly honourable.
NYPL
It was really rather fun - anyhow now
that's it's over. But I must tell
you -

Yrs B

HAMILL 2/10/64

October 1918

5 Oct 1918

I think it would be wise to burn this letter at once.

Athelhampton.

Saturday.

Dearest,

What a fearful row about your attempted miscarriage! For Gods sake be careful, & remember your responsibilities. The only 7 months child known to me was Hugo Montgomerie, & I dont want my pick & cream of Coalition to go giving young women in hansom cabs khaki bibles.

I am immensely interested by the servant developments. I rather suspected something of the kind, though Nelly said nothing about it when she wrote except that she had seen you. I dont think there's any good attempting to forecast what they will wish to do. Only 2 days before the row Nelly told me that they had never felt so settled. But if they say that they want to go to you I shall certainly not attempt to persuade them to stay. I'm unselfish enough to be rather anxious that they should go to you, as I believe they'd be on their honour to behave well, & you'd find them a great comfort compared with Emily. (God! what horrors you do have!) Anyhow, I'm not going to say anything, but I shall let them broach the whole matter to me. Of course, I don't altogether want them to go, as they have great merits, &

from our point of view

Nelly has been extremely nice all this time. On the other hand, I don't believe Lottie will ever swallow all her grievances (I wonder what she said that they were?) & of course I'm a good deal tempted by the idea of RH running Arbeham & Hogarth on quite a different system. I will come to tea on Wednesday, & then I suppose I shall have discovered the whole thing about 20 times over with them. & may be able to throw some light on it. My own impression is that from what Nelly told me, Lottie wants to go because she thinks we don't appreciate her, & she herself wants to stay.

NYPL

Except for Gentle's visit we've been quite alone here, & there's a great deal to be said for living in the country. I wanted to ask the children over for the day, but I didn't know whether Mrs B. would like it— I suppose you have been in the heart of civilization— I wish I knew whether you are really better. I don't believe you realise what a frightful grind you've had, what with rabbits, hoes moving, agriculture, governesses, for the last 2 years. Never have another child. & eat every bone in Gordon Sq^re. I had a dolepul letter from Barbara, who seemed to think that her life would be lightened if we asked her here, but I sent her some mushrooms instead— I had Mrs Sturgeon Mrs Sturgeon & Flora Woolf who; now Mrs George Sturgeon over, & they told us all sorts of gossip about the country side. They want us to go & play tennis next summer. There's a house to let at Kingston. B.